Formulation of New Bio-technology Policy

796. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a new bio-technology policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the proposed new bio-technology policy; and

(d) the time by which the above policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Bio-technology Policy is aimed at promoting Bio-technology Industry. A high level Expert Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Bio-technology. The Task Force has met on 25th, October, 2004 and six Expert Working Groups have been constituted in the following areas:

- Capacity Building: Human Resource Development, Infrastructure Development and Strengthening of Institutions.
- Promotion of Innovation & Knowledge Commercialization.
- Bio-business.
- Bio-technology Parks and Incubators.
- Regulatory Issues.
- Public Awareness and Communication.

Detailed deliberations and discussions are being held with large number of eminent scienctists, researchers, academicians, indusry representatives, Non-Governmcnt Organisations, policy makers and other stakeholders.

(d) The draft policy is expected to be ready by January 2005.